

and Leda and the swan \were also enacted. In Martial's *Epigrams*, Book I, the cases are mentioned where a woman fought with a lion ; Laureolus, a robber, was crucified and torn, as he hung on the cross, by a bear ; Dsedalus, when his wing broke, was precipitated amongst bears who tore him to pieces ; and Orpheus was torn by a bear. These exhibitions were recognized as indecencies.¹

Later the exhibitions had no limit.² " From father to son, for nearly seven centuries, the Roman character became more and more indurated under the influence of licensed cruelty. The spectacle was also surrounded by the emperors, even the greatest and best, for politic reasons, with ever growing splendor."³ " It is a grave deduction from the admiring judgment of the glory of the Antonine age, that its most splendid remains are the stately buildings within whose enclosure for centuries the populace were regaled with the sufferings and the blood of the noblest creatures of the wild animal world and of gallant men. The deserts and forests of Africa and the remotest East contributed their elephants and panthers and lions to these scenes."⁴

625. Spread of gladiatorial exhibitions. The Romans carried gladiatorial exhibitions wherever their conquests extended. " The Teutonic regions of the North and Greece were almost the only provinces in which the bloody games were not popular. The one Greek town where the taste for them was fully developed was the mongrel city of Corinth, which was a Roman colony. In the novel of Apuleius we meet a high Corinthian magistrate traveling through Thessaly to collect the most famous gladiators for his shows. Plutarch urges public men to banish or to restrain these exhibitions in their cities. When the

Athenians, from an ambition to rival the splendor of Corinth, were meditating the establishment of a gladiatorial show, the gentle Demonax bade them first to overturn their altar of Pity. The apostles of Hellenism, — Dion, Plutarch, and Lucian, — were unanimous in condemning an institution which sacrificed the bravest men to the brutal passions of the mob." ⁵ At Byzantium the lack of any

¹ Martial, II, Introd.

⁸ Dill, *Nero to M. AureL*,

²³⁵.

² Scherr, *Kult. Gesch* ^ 181.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 238.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 240.